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Leaving aside Brossette's legal attainments, it is with his career as a man of letters that this paper is most concerned. Early the friend and correspondent of Boileau, for many years on familiar terms with J. B. Rousseau, knowing Voltaire and exchanging letters with him, visiting the actor Baron at Paris, and receiving at Lyon, *en passant*, a visit from the early historian of Italian comedy, il Signore Riccoboni, we have in Brossette a man who was peculiarly well-informed regarding the literary matters of his time, and a man whose career must have done much to increase the influence of literary culture. Perhaps the greatest service rendered by him was the example given to other literary workers in the same field. He believed that in literary work, as in legal work, it was necessary to be well supplied with documents before a start could be made. His work upon Boileau and Regnier and what can be learned regarding the proposed work on Molière, prove that he was applying a scientific method to the study of French authors.

From one modern standpoint he may be criticized as over-credulous, as making the quantity of his notes supply their lacking quality, as deficient in judgment and discrimination, and as being the servile type of commentator, too often praising and defending. But from another standpoint more just and more liberal, Brossette should be praised as a pioneer in careful and serious research concerning the history of his own literature.

The creative spirit had reached a high level, but the preservative and scholarly habit was in its early stages. Brossette typified the new movement.

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HOBBY-HORSICAL.

It would probably prove a disappointing experiment—at least one not invariably satisfactory—if one were to rely, with the confidence once due to "But, O! but, O!," upon William Carew Hazlitt's recent *Confessions of a Collector* to excite a train of associated ideas which are drawn by Hobby-Horse. The author himself may be believed to have had in mind the uncertain character of such an experiment, and, with the wish to remove all chances of

failure, to have taken an early occasion in the book to observe, quite incidentally, "There was nothing 'hobby-horsical,' to borrow Coleridge's expression, about the matter" (p. 3). The adjective is sure to accomplish the wished for purpose, but its limitation "Coleridge's," what of that? Has not the professional numismatist at last been 'taken in' by a false superscription and date? Or, has he wished, for some innocent reason, to bring about a temporary disassociation, in the mind of his readers, between his chapters and a famous paragraph which it is difficult to forget? Dear uncle Toby, the distinction between scarp and counterscarp will always be vitally important; you shall not be robbed in your grave, nor shall the memorable reflections of your affectionate nephew Tristram be forgotten, no, not for even a day:

"A man and his Hobby-Horse, though I cannot say that they act and re-act exactly after the same manner in which the soul and body do upon each other, yet, doubtless, there is a communication between them of some kind; and my opinion rather is, that there is something in it more of the manner of electrified bodies;—and that, by means of the heated parts of the rider, which come immediately into contact with the Hobby-Horse,—by long journies, and much friction, it so happens, that the body of the rider is at length filled as full of Hobby-Horsical matter as it can hold;—so that if you are able to give but a clear description of the nature of the one, you may form a pretty exact notion of the genius and character of the other."

J. W. B.

A FRENCH COLONY IN MICHIGAN.

IN 1760 the French settlements in what is now the state of Michigan passed with Canada into the hands of the English. But the transfer of governmental authority brought little change in the life and character of the colonies. British garrisons were stationed at Detroit and at Mackinaw: English traders followed and plied their business under the protection of the British flag, but few permanent English settlers found their way so far west during the period of British rule, and the hardy Norman-French pioneer was left to pursue his own career in the lake region.

Detroit was the commercial, as well as the governmental, capital of the territory. Its pop-

ulation in 1764 has been estimated at 2500, not including the garrison. There were also small French colonies at Mackinaw and at other points in the north, but with these this paper is in no wise concerned. The Detroit colony was composed of a hardy and thrifty stock, and had been established on a firm basis by Cadillac, a man wise in statecraft. It had never ceased to grow and prosper, notwithstanding the change of authority and the perils of the Indian wars. To the north and to the south, along the great waterway between Lake St. Clair and Lake Erie, farms were cleared, and the soil cultivated systematically and profitably.

In 1780 François Navarre pushed out beyond the limits of the Detroit colony, and settled in an entirely new district to the west of Lake Erie, in what is now Monroe County. This, the southeastern county of Michigan, is traversed from west to east by a stream named by the first residents the *Rivière aux Raisins*, now the River Raisin (never the Raisin River). To the south distant about six miles, and parallel with the River Raisin, flows Otter Creek, and to the north, at almost an equal distance, is Stony Creek. The French pioneers kept close to the waterways, and so good a report did François Navarre make of the valley of the River Raisin and the neighboring streams, that he was soon joined in his new home by his brothers, and other families from Detroit.

In 1795 the sovereignty of the territory of Michigan passed to the United States, and *bona fide* settlers were granted title to six hundred and forty acres of land, or so much of it as they would have staked off by the government surveyor. One hundred and five claimants were allowed title in Monroe County, and almost all of them were French as the names indicate. They had settled on both banks of the River Raisin for a distance of twelve miles from its mouth. Their farms were originally small, and each fronted on the river. In order to get the six hundred and forty acres granted to each one by the government, they were forced to extend the farms in narrow strips back from the river often to the depth of more than two miles. A few similar claims were allowed on Otter and Stony Creeks. The rest of the county was laid off

regularly into townships and sections.

Such were the beginnings of the French colony of Monroe County. From 1795 to the present day, it has grown practically only by natural increase. A few immigrants have come from Canada, and a very few from France. During the first half-century of its existence there seems to have been a certain interchange of population between the Monroe settlement and the mother colony of Detroit, but that could have had but little effect upon the Monroe dialect, as the speech of the two colonies was originally the same, and the dialects are today very similar. In Detroit, however, French has within the last twenty-five years almost completely died out.

Notwithstanding the fact that the French settlement of Monroe County has received scarcely any additions from without, it has grown rapidly. In 1812 it could not have numbered more than one thousand souls. Today it is estimated at ten thousand, distributed among the towns or villages of Monroe, Raisinville, Newport, Rockwood, Brest, Strsburg and Erie, and as farmers throughout the entire eastern half of the County.

The first colonists were illiterate. But few could write their own name, as shown by early legal records and the church register, and at no time in the history of the colony has any considerable number been able to read or write their mother tongue. At the present day all can speak English, and those who live in the towns and villages speak it without French accent. Many of the older men and women can not read or write any language, but almost all under thirty years of age can read and write English. The children attend and have attended the English public schools, and even in the parish school the instruction is in English. But notwithstanding this, and the fact that the colony has been surrounded by an English-speaking population for a century, French still remains in most of the families the language of the home. It is the language of the church, and is commonly employed in business and social intercourse. There has not been much intermarrying between the two races. For ecclesiastical and social reasons, the French families have been and still remain a people apart.

These conditions have brought about a state

of things very interesting to the student of speech changes. Here is a speech which has been for more than a century almost wholly uninfluenced by the written language. For almost the same length of time, and in ever-increasing ratio, it has been subject to modification through its contact with another tongue known chiefly in its spoken form. The conditions that existed in Gaul in the sixth and seventh centuries are repeated in this corner of Michigan, except that in the latter case the Teuton invaders instead of being the absorbed are the absorbing element.

As might be expected, the phonology and morphology of this dialect present many interesting features. In beginning my investigations it occurred to me that the conjugation of the regular verbs would be a good starting-point for a study of both the morphology and phonology. This study of the conjugations, which I now offer, is based upon observations made upon a number of persons varying in age from sixteen to sixty, living in various parts of the county and following different occupations. Individual peculiarities have been discarded in the paradigms. In some instances, however, reference has been made to them in the foot-notes. In soliciting the information I always asked the question in English, and in such a form as to call for an entire sentence. None of the persons could read French, except one who was just beginning to do so, but without a teacher; and none, as far as I know, have ever been influenced by other French than that of the colony.

The phonetic alphabet used is that of the *Association Phonétique Internationale*. One additional character, *ɔ*, is used to denote a sound intermediate between *a* and *o*.

PRESENT INDICATIVE, SIMPLE FORM.¹

3 ^a pãrl	ʒs pãrl
ty ³ "	vu ⁶ pãrlɛ7
i ⁴ }	
al }	i ⁸ pãrl.

¹ Simple form is much less used than the progressive.

² *dʒə* is often heard, also *nuz*.

³ *tʃy* is often heard, also *twe*.

⁴ *hi* is sometimes heard (under influence of English *he*?). The liaison of *l* in *il* and *s* in *ils* is not uniform. *al-elle*.

⁵ The use of *on* when not including the speaker seems to be foreign to the dialect. *ʒ pãrl nuz otɔ*, and *nuz otɔ pãrl* are common variants, but *nu pãrlɔ* is very rare.

⁶ The liaison of the *s*—*a* of *vous* is far from uniform.

⁷ The ending *e* is not infrequently omitted, thereby reducing the tense to a single verb-form.

⁸ Variants: *il pãrl, les otɔ pãrl, and i pãrl les otɔ*.

PRESENT INDICATIVE, PROGRESSIVE FORM.

3 ^a fɔitɔ aprai pãrlɛ (finir, etc.)
tɛt " "
il ¹⁰ }
al } ɛt " "
ɔ n ¹¹ ɛt " "
vuz ɛt " "
i sɔt " "

IMPERFECT INDICATIVE, SIMPLE FORM.¹²

3 ^a pãrlai ¹⁴ (finisai, etc.)	ʒ pãrlai (finisai, etc.)
ty " "	vu " "
i " "	i " "

IMPERFECT INDICATIVE, PROGRESSIVE FORM.

3etai ¹⁵ aprai pãrlɛ (finir, etc.)
tetai " "
il }
al } etai " "
ɔn etai ¹⁶ " "
vu (z) etai ¹⁷ aprai pãrlɛ.
il etai ¹⁸ " "

Passé Défini.

This tense as might be expected does not exist in the dialect. Simple past actions, whether recent or remote, are expressed by the use of the *passé indéfini*.

Future.

3 ^a pãrləra ¹⁹ (finira, etc.)	ɔ pãrləra ²⁰ (finira, etc.)
ty " "	vu " "
i " "	i " "
3 ^a va ²² pãrlɛ (finir, etc.)	ʒ va pãrlɛ (finir, etc.)
ty " "	vuz ale " "
i " "	i vɔ ²³ " "

⁹ The *t* in *finir* may be explained by the variable usage of the dialect in the matter of *liaison* of *s*. *Suis* became *sui* before vowels as well as before consonants, and then *t* was added by analogy with the other forms of the tense. The probable explanation of / for *s* is as follows: *3^a sɔit-3 sɔit-ɔit*, and then the pronoun was restored; in fact, *finir* is often heard without the preceding *3^a*. Another variant is the analogical *3ot*.

¹⁰ Variants: *i, hi* and *lui*.

¹¹ Variants: *ʒ l ɛt, ɔn ɛt nuz otɔ* and *nuz otɔ ɛt*.

¹² Much less used than the progressive form.

¹³ See notes on present indicative, simple form. The same variants for the pronouns are found in all tenses, and therefore no further notes will be given on that subject.

¹⁴ The reduction of this tense to a single verb-form is the general usage.

¹⁵ Variant *3^a ɔitai*, by analogy with *3^a ɔit*.

¹⁶ Rarely *etɔ*.

¹⁷ Rarely *etɛ*.

¹⁸ Variant: *sɔtai*, by analogy with *sɔt*.

¹⁹ Variant: *pãrləre*.

²⁰ The plural sometimes has the standard endings, but the tendency to reduce the tense to a single form is very marked. Those who use the standard forms will also use the others.

²¹ In this form *nuz* is perhaps more common than *3^a*.

²² Variant: *mɔ va*, but not *tɔ va*, etc.

²³ No uniformity of *liaison* of the *t*. For example, I heard both *vɔ ekute* and *vɔt ekute*.

Conditional.

3ə pãrlə ra ²⁴	(finira, etc.)	ʒ pãrləra	(finira, etc.)
ty	"	vu	"
i	"	i	"

Subjunctive.

To elicit the subjunctive forms, I put questions requiring for their answer the use of the expressions: *il faut, avant que, jusqu'à ce que*, etc. I give, therefore, the forms in connection with *il faut*.

Present.

i fo ²⁵ k 3ə pãrl	(finis, råd.)
" " " ty	"
" " ki	"
" " kʒ	"
" " k vu pãrlə	²⁶
" " ki pãrl.	

Past Subjunctive.

As might be expected this tense did not seem to be in common use. The idea was usually expressed by *j'états obligé à*, etc., with the infinitive. I received, however, such answers as the following: *i(l) a fəlu* (or *i fəla*) *kə ʒ əlym lə fə ʒer=il a fallu que j'allume le feu hier*: and *i fəla k ʒə finis sɔ ʒer=il a fallu que je finisse ça hier*.

From my observations I judge, that in so far as this tense exists in the dialect, its forms are the same as those of the present subjunctive. The usage of two persons seemed to indicate that they expressed the idea by forms of *aller* or *venir* followed by the infinitive. That is a point on which I intend to make more extended and accurate investigations.

The conjugation of the verb in the Monroe County dialect shows two marked tendencies: namely, a fondness for the progressive circumlocutions, and a reduction of each tense to a single verb-form. The progressive formula *être après* is not peculiar to this locality, but is in common use in other branches of the Canadian dialect. It will be noticed that by the use of this circumlocution in the present and imperfect, the employment of *aller* in the fu-

²⁴ *pãrrə* is a not uncommon variant for the first pers. sing., and one person used the standard forms of the future for the plural of the conditional. These and other observations make me think that the dialect has confounded the conditional with the simple future, using this latter tense almost exclusively for the conditional, and the 3^d (*mã*) *va finir* form for the future.

²⁵ As a variant of *i fo* I noticed *i va fulvar=il va falloir*. The expression *être obligé à* with the infinitive is more common than the subjunctive with *il faut*.

²⁶ In one instance *pãrlje* or *pãrlə*.

ture, and the exclusive use of a compound tense to express unqualified past time, the indicative mood is narrowed down to two forms, infinitive and past participle. Even in the simple tenses the substitution of *on* for *nous* has eliminated one ending, and in the imperfect and conditional the ending of the second person plural has disappeared.

Practically the conjugation is no longer made by endings, but by auxiliary verbs.

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GERMAN LITERATURE.

Poems of Uhland. Selected and edited by WATERMAN T. HEWETT, Ph. D. New York: Macmillan & Company, 1896. 12mo, pp. lviii, 352.

SINCE its publication in the spring of 1896, Professor Hewett's *Poems of Uhland* has met with deserved favor at the hands of critics and, we doubt not, of readers; the time for a regular review of the book, therefore, would seem to be passed. I desire, however, to bring out a few points of somewhat more general interest which have been suggested by this edition.

Prof. Hewett's book is plainly a labor of love. He is a warm, not to say ardent admirer of Uhland and his poetry. Provided that such an attitude of personal sympathy and devotion on the part of an editor rests on patient research and on a thorough knowledge of his subject, and not merely on superficial sentiment, it is likely to add to his work a more intimate charm and a greater power to kindle interest and enthusiasm; an effect not very often produced by a painful striving after nothing but chilling objectivity. There can hardly be any doubt, therefore, that Prof. Hewett's edition, as an exposition of what is best in Uhland's life and poetry, has gained in value and usefulness by the fact that, in the best sense, it appears to be a true labor of love.

On the other hand, we are inclined to believe that jealous care for his author's renown has influenced the editor in restricting the Introduction to an almost purely biographical narrative; while it must be admitted that in Uhland's best poems, his *Lieder* and *Balladen*